

2012 MacKerricher State Park Whale Festival

MacKerricher State Park: (located three miles north of Fort Bragg on Highway 1) MacKerricher State Park's 2012 Whale Festival is a popular 'Must-Attend' event on March 16, 17 and 18. Activities are listed below. For additional information call (707) 961-0471.

An ideal location for watching migrating whales, MacKerricher provides a wheelchair accessible boardwalk, allowing an easy traverse across the headlands to a deck situated on Laguna Point near the whale route. Docents will present public whale talks on the dates below, and will provide binoculars and a spotting scope to help visitors study whales and other fascinating marine and bird wildlife near MacKerricher's shores. A rare, reconstructed Gray Whale Skeleton is on permanent display near the visitor center and Entry Kiosk. The skeleton is a composite of two whales that beached on the Mendocino Coast, two years apart. Humpback Whale bones are also on display giving a visual size perspective between the grays and humpbacks.

Schedule of Events at MacKerricher State Park

Friday, March 16: 7 p.m.

Close Encounters of the Marine Mammal Kind - Stories of personal encounters with marine mammals, including whales, told by people who experienced them. The public is invited to attend and share their stories of marine mammal encounters. Meet at the MacKerricher Visitor Center, near the entry kiosk and Whale Skeleton.

March 17 and 18: 11 a.m.

Whale Walks –Docents present an informative overview of whales. The talk/walk starts at the MacKerricher Visitor Center and then proceeds to the whale skeleton before driving to Laguna Point for whale watching.

March 18: 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Whale Fact Scavenger Hunt for children.

At MacKerricher State Park start out at the visitor center and then go through the park to find clues. Answer questions about gray whales. Then get a prize.

Sunday, March 29, 1:00 p.m. to 3p.m.

Help us paint the whale skeletons at MacKerricher State Park.

Whale skeleton bones need to be painted to help protect them. Paint and some brushes will be provided. Bring paint brushes and wear old clothes. Rain or fog will cancel painting the whale skeleton.